

# Commandant's Message July 2007

## Integrity

Marines,

For this issue of the newsletter, I feel compelled to discuss a subject which we are all aware of and most of us have, "Integrity". Integrity is like pregnancy, either you are pregnant or you are not pregnant. There is no "Sort of pregnant", "A little bit pregnant" or "Occasionally pregnant". Integrity is much the same. You either have integrity or you do not.

By virtue of your service in the United States Marine Corps, you have done things which most people will never do. Just claiming the title Marine is impressive enough. There is no need to embellish the truth and fabricate tales to try and impress others. As we all know, lying is a slippery slope, and you always wind up being exposed. If you were a cook, you were a Marine cook. If you were a grunt, you were a Marine grunt. Be proud of that, but never let the temptation to pretend you were someone or something different take over. If you do this, you not only lose your integrity and credibility, but you also steal from those who have been there/done that.

In addition to lost credibility and integrity, claiming certain Medals, Ranks, or Status (Ex: POW, Medal of Honor, Purple Heart), can land you in legal hot water. Under the Stolen Valor Act passed a couple of years ago, making certain fraudulent claims is a Federal Offense. It is just not worth it.

So, remember, whatever you did or did not do in the Corps, stick to the truth. If people are not impressed with the fact that you were a Marine, They are not worth impressing.

Semper Fi,

*Jerry Dangler*